

HA-816
CITY HALL
Havre de Grace, Md.

c.1870

City Hall is located on N. Union Ave., this brick municipal building has a severe neo-classical facade characterized by alternating brick pilasters and recessed panels. Decorative corbeled bands mark the transition between the upper and lower stories. Originally built as a three story structure, the building has had many uses including: public school, town hall, and city opera house. In the 1920's it suffered a fire which reduced it to two stories.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-816
1308163501

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

City Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

121 N. Union Ave.

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Havre de Grace

Telephone #: 939-1800

STREET & NUMBER

121 N. Union Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

Md. 21078

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bel Air, Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

City Hall is a two story, four bay by four bay, brick municipal building, erected in 1870. A two story brick wing with a granite foundation is attached to the rear, giving the entire structure a T-shape. It is located at 121 N. Union Ave., facing west. The all stretcher course facade has thin, very white mortar joints while the flanks and rear are laid in common bond.

The severly symmetrical facade is composed of five brick pilasters flanking recessed panels which have decorative corbeled bands at the top of each of them. Centered in the plain recessed panels are the doors and windows.

All of the windows have tall, 1/1 light, double hung sash with granite sills and lintels.

There are two entrances on the front of the building, one in the north bay and one in the south. Both have modern glass and metal doors. Other entrances are located on the north elevation main block and east and west elevations of the wing. None of the entrances appear to contain their original doors.

The present roof is a low hipped, asphalt roof with a overhanging box cornice. Narrow brick chimneys are found on the inside of the east end of the main block, inside the northeast corner of the wing and on the outside of the north wall of the wing.

The building that stands today is only part of the original structure. When it was erected in 1870 as a combination school house and town hall the structure was 3 stories high with a overhanging gable front roof. Later, utilized as a opera house and city hall, the building suffered a fire in the 1920's which reduced it to two stories. A c. 1900 postcard (photograph included in this report) shows double doors of three panels each and windows containing 9/9 lights.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

City Hall in Havre de Grace is an 1870 municipal building with a severe neo-classical facade characterized by alternating brick pilasters and recessed panels. Decorative corbeled bands mark the transition between the upper and lower stories. Originally built as a three story structure, the building has had many uses. First it was a school house on the first two floors and a town hall on the third. It appears on the Sanborn Map of 1885 as a public school/town hall. In 1894 the school moved to another location and by 1899 the building is listed on the Sanborn map as the city opera house with council rooms on the first floor and a opera house on the 2nd and third floors. The balcony is shown on the west wall and the stage on the east. It is also stated that the seating capacity was 500 and the height of the ceiling in the auditorium was 25' and 32' above the stage. Unfortunately the building suffered a fire in the 1920's which reduced it to two stories. Architecturally, City Hall resembles the front of the American Cyanamid Factory (HA-814) which also has a brick facade with recessed panels.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

JA-816

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage 1967 C. Milton Wright, Publish
Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. New York 1885
Sanborn - Perris Map Co. Ltd. New York, 1899

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton, Architectural Surveyor
ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust
STREET & NUMBER

11/22/76
TELEPHONE

21 State Circle
CITY OR TOWN

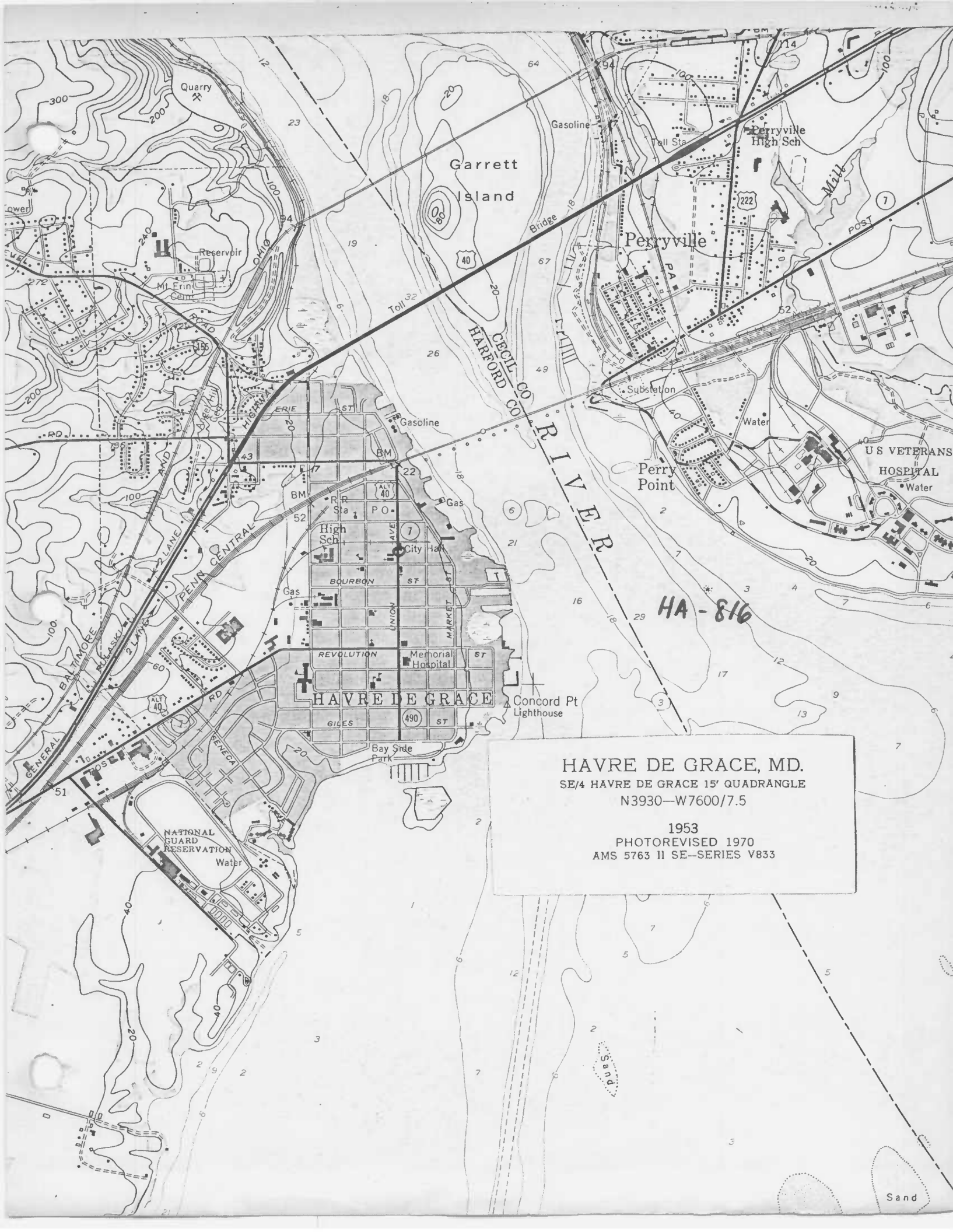
STATE

Annapolis, Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.
SE/4 HAVRE DE GRACE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3930-W7600/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 5763 II SE-SERIES V833

Opera House and Fire Quarters,
Havre De Grace, Md.



CITY HALL

HA - 816

121 N. UNION AVE

HAVRE DE GRACE

WEST ELEV.

PHOTOGRAPH OF OLD POSTCARD C. 1900

MARION MORTON MARCH 77

37



Cidey Hall
121 N. Union Ave.

HA-816

Haure de Grace

west facade

Marion Morton